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REMARKS

We have amended claim 1 to remove recitation concerning how the laminate was made.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundet (#5,665,446) in view of Futhy (#5,840,407).

Sundet describes a laminate that can be adapted for use to decorate a substrate, which, like the laminate according to the present invention, as claimed in Claim 1 comprises (1) a layer of pre-mask material comprising a cover layer and a layer of removable adhesive firmly adhered to one surface of the cover layer; (2) a plurality of decorative films each having a layer of adhesive along one of their major surfaces; and (3) a release liner with a first major surface adapted to be releasably adhered to by the removable adhesive on the cover layer and by the adhesives on the decorative films. Also, as in the laminate according to the present invention, the decorative films of Sundet are applied to the first surface of the release liner in a pattern, and the layer of removable adhesive included in the layer of pre-mask material is adhered over the outer major surfaces of the decorative films adhered to the release liner and to the release liner around the decorative films.

Unlike the laminate according to the present invention, however, the decorative films or "graphics" in the laminate of Sundet are each formed in one piece by cutting them from a large sheet of the film material as with a computer controlled knife or a die cutter and then removing the weed from around the decorative films (see column 5, lines 33-41 of Sundet). Thus the decorative films have shapes such as the W illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawing in Sundet.

In contrast, instead of "graphics" of the type described by Sundet that are each formed in one piece by cutting them from a large sheet of the film material, the laminate adapted for use to decorate a substrate according to the present invention includes, a plurality of display lengths of decorative film tape each comprising a length of decorative film having opposite parallel edge surfaces, opposite end surfaces at opposite ends of the length of decorative film, opposite major surfaces extending between said edge and end surfaces, and a layer of adhesive along one of the major surfaces; which display lengths of decorative film tape have different lengths and shapes of their end surfaces and are adhered to the first surface of the release liner with end surfaces of some of the display lengths of decorative film tape closely spaced from each other to form a decorative pattern. The decorative pattern comprises a plurality of pattern portions, each of

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which pattern portions is formed by four display lengths of decorative film tape having adjacent closely spaced end surfaces and extending in four different directions from those adjacent closely spaced end surfaces, with the closely spaced end surfaces of the four display lengths of decorative film tape each having two projecting surface portions disposed at an angle with respect to each other.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Sundet of a decorative pattern in a laminate formed from such display lengths of decorative film tape having parallel side surfaces with ends of the lengths of tape spaced closely from each other or of the claimed type of pattern portions from four display lengths of decorative film tape having adjacent closely spaced end surfaces and extending in four different directions from those adjacent closely spaced end surfaces, with the closely spaced end surfaces of the four display lengths of decorative film tape each having two projecting surface portions disposed at an angle with respect to each other.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Sundet, unlike the present invention, does not describe or suggest decorative patterns in a laminate formed from display lengths of decorative film tape by citing Futhey. Futhey et al. describes lengths of decorative film tape of a type that can be used in the claimed laminate. Applicants acknowledge that such lengths of decorative film tape were well known prior to the present invention, and that such lengths of decorative film tape have been used to decorate substrates particularly including glass substrates. There has, however, been no laminate of the type claimed that includes such lengths of decorative film tape with end surfaces of some of the lengths of decorative film tape closely spaced from each other to form a decorative pattern, and with that pattern including pattern portions including four display lengths of decorative film tape having adjacent closely spaced end surfaces and extending in four different directions from those adjacent closely spaced end surfaces, with the closely spaced end surfaces of the four display lengths of decorative film tape each having two projecting surface portions disposed at an angle with respect to each other.

The claimed plurality of pattern portions in the laminate according to the present invention are important as they allow formation of many different decorative patterns with the lengths of decorative film tape in the laminate, two of which are illustrated in Figures 1 and 7 of the drawing.

There is no teaching or suggestion in either Sundet or Futhey of either (1) the use of lengths of decorative film tape to form a decorative pattern in a laminate of the type claimed or

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(2) of a decorative pattern in a laminate of the type claimed including decorative pattern portions including four display lengths of decorative film having adjacent closely spaced end surfaces and extending in four different directions from those adjacent closely spaced end surfaces, with the closely spaced end surfaces of the four display lengths of decorative film each having two projecting surface portions disposed at an angle with respect to each other.

Thus, the laminate adapted for use to decorate a substrate according to the present invention as claimed in claim 6 is not made obvious by Sundet or of any combination of Sundet and Futhy. Claim 6 should be allowed.

Claims 7 through 10 are dependent on claim 6 and are thus allowable for all of the reasons given above with respect to claim 6. Also, those dependent claims recite structural features not taught or suggested by the cited art in the claimed combinations. For example:

Claim 7 recites that the spaces between the closely spaced end surfaces of the lengths of decorative film tape are in the range of 0.005 to 0.12 inch or 0.013 to 0.3 cm. As noted above, there is no teaching or suggestion in Sundet of laminates including decorative patterns of decorative film tape having end surfaces closely spaced from each other, and thus no suggestion of the claimed range of spaces.

Claim 8 recites that the decorative film in the lengths of decorative film tape have grooves or other structure along one major surface of the decorative film visually simulating a decorative structure. The cited art does not suggest a laminate includes such lengths of tape.

Claim 10 recites that the two projecting surface portions of each of the closely spaced end surfaces of the four display lengths of decorative film tape are disposed at a right angle with respect to each other. This is also not shown in any of the cited art

The rejection of claims 5-10 under 35 USC § 103 (a) should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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